

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 204952 TOSEC 040097
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S:A. OTTO:WES

APPROVED BY S/S:AOTTO

-----082026Z 088487 /63

P 082023Z MAY 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 104952 TOSEC 040097

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

FOL RPT BAGHDAD 0771 ACTION SECSTATE 8 MAY 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0771

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQI

REFERENCE: STATE 104489

1. VISIT OF UNDERSECRETARY HABIB MIGHT HELP BREAK THE ICE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH IRAQI, BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI IS A TIMOROUS AND GENERALLY NEGATIVE TECHNICIAN WHO PLAYS TO THE HILT THE CURRENTLY FASHIONABLE ANTI-AMERICAN GAME IN HOPES OF LIVING DOWN HIS OWN PREVIOUS ASSOCIATIONS WITH AMERICA (PHD-UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN). CHANCES OF PROGRESS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS IN A HABIB-HAMMADI MEETING THAN IN A MEETING BETWEEN A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND SADDAM HUSSEIN WHO HAS THE POWER AND SELF-CONFIDENCE
SECRET

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TO BRING ABOUT A REAL CHANGE IN POLICY SHOULD HE DESIRE TO DO SO.

2. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF SHORT VISIT BY SECRETARY VANCE ON CONDITION HE BE RECEIVED BY SADDAM HUSSEIN. MY PAST CONTACTS WITH AMBASSADORS OF GULF STATES LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT THESE STATES WOULD BE DELIGHTED BY AN IMPROVEMENT IN US-IRAQI RELATIONS AND THAT THIS CONSIDERATION WOULD OUTWEIGH ANY TEMPORARY PIQUE THAT MIGHT RESULT IF SECRETARY VISITED BAGHDAD AND EXCLUDED THEIR CAPITALS.

3. IF SECRETARY VISIT NOT FEASIBLE, HOWEVER, RECOMMEND WE CONSIDER ASKING IRAQIS IF SADDAM HUSSEIN WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET WITH UNDERSECRETARY HABIB FOR PURPOSE OF RECEIVING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. WHEN WE REQUEST APPOINTMENT, WE COULD INFORM IRAQIS OF GENERAL TOPICS MESSAGE WOULD COVER SUCH AS NON-SUPPORT FOR KURDIS SEPARATISM, USG WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED TOWARDS RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PERIOD OF HIGHER LEVEL CONSULTATIONS. WE MIGHT ALSO OFFER TO KEEP HABIB VISIT SECRET IF IRAQIS SO DESIRE.
WILEY

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 08-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2344577
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970904; <modified by WASHDC\FischerWP on 5/18/2009>
Subject: IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQI
TAGS: PFOR
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eca56088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009